CHANGES OTHER THAN POLITICAL, 1894-1944: INTRODUCTORY

The developments in China's internal politics and international relations after 1894 were startling and momentous. At the same time, as though these were not enough for any one people to face, a revolution was being wrought in other phases of the nation's life. Under the impact of the Occident all the main features of the structure of Chinese culture were being altered, some of them drastically. The pace was accelerated by the struggle with Japan in the 1930's and 1940's. In less than a generation the Chinese had moved into a different world—economic, religious, intellectual, and social. To ignore the changes would be to miss parts of the picture which may prove the most significant. Since we are to recur to them in later chapters, at this point they can be summarized much more succinctly than have the political events.

The revolution was accentuated by the fact that during these years, especially after 1914, Occidental culture was suffering from profound disturbances. It was contact with a West which itself was being basically modified and much of whose life was in process of disintegration which was transforming Chinese civilization.

CHANGES IN ECONOMIC LIFE, 1894-1944

The West was most aggressive in the realms of politics, economics, and religion. Naturally, therefore, not only in government but also in the economic and religious phases of China's life these nearly four decades witnessed striking innovations.

It was chiefly for better facilities for commerce that the Occident had forced on China the treaties of 1842-1844 and 1858-1860. Commerce was the chief interest of the

power which long held the leading place in China's maritime relations—Great Britain. In its broadest sense, commerce was also the main concern of Japan. Moreover, China, with its huge population—the largest of any nation—and its traditions of hard work and canny trading was presumably the greatest potential market in the world.

However, in spite of all these factors leading one to expect a startling development in foreign commerce, the increase, while marked, was not phenomenal. China's total foreign trade for 1913